

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Anti-virus state information for a file is stored within an associated data structure that is created and/or maintained by the file system of the computer. The data structure can be a file directory entry with the anti-virus state information being stored in unused fields of the entry. For file systems that maintain separate entities for the data and resource information of a file, the anti-virus state information can be stored in the resource entity or in a specifically created entity.

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